

Applicants thank the Examiner and the Primary Examiner for their helpful insight on this matter, and respectfully request that they reconsider their objection and rejections in light of this Reply and Amendment.

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please insert the following section in the specification:

**ABSTRACT**

Methods and apparatus for delivering radiation therapy to patients during suspended ventilation are provided. The apparatus includes a ventilator assembly having first and second selectively operable valves that independently control inhalation and exhalation of the patient. Both valves are shut to suspend patient ventilation for a period of time. In the methods of the present invention, radiation therapy is administered during this period of suspended patient ventilation.

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2, 5, 11, 13 and 16.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 through 10, 12, and 15 as indicated in Appendix A, wherein underlining indicates additional text and bracketing indicates deleted text. A clean version of each of these claims follows: